Act 2
Performance Preparation

ザアアア
YOU DON'T NEED A KNIFE TO KILL AN ENTER-TAINER...

ALL YOU NEED IS THREE DAYS OF RAIN... THEY SAY.
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2

TCH ...
THE CIRCUS HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEPENDENT ON THE WEATHER ...
クッソ

SHUT UP ALREADY! WHINING ISN'T GONNA STOP THE RAIN!
IF THE RAIN DOESN'T LET UP WE WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP OUR FOOTING!
TELL ME THIS ISN'T HAPPENING! DAMN IT!
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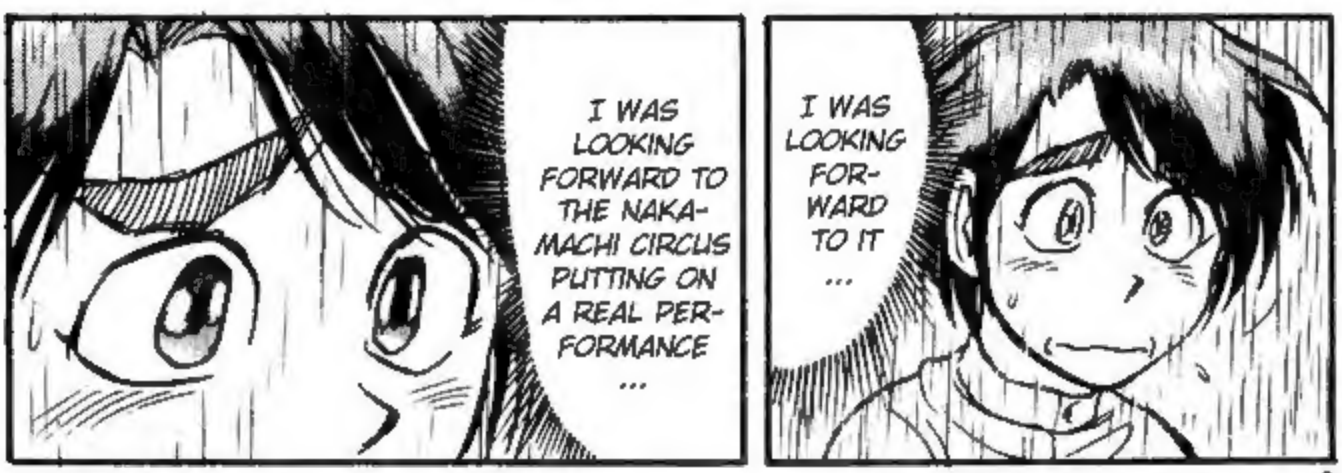
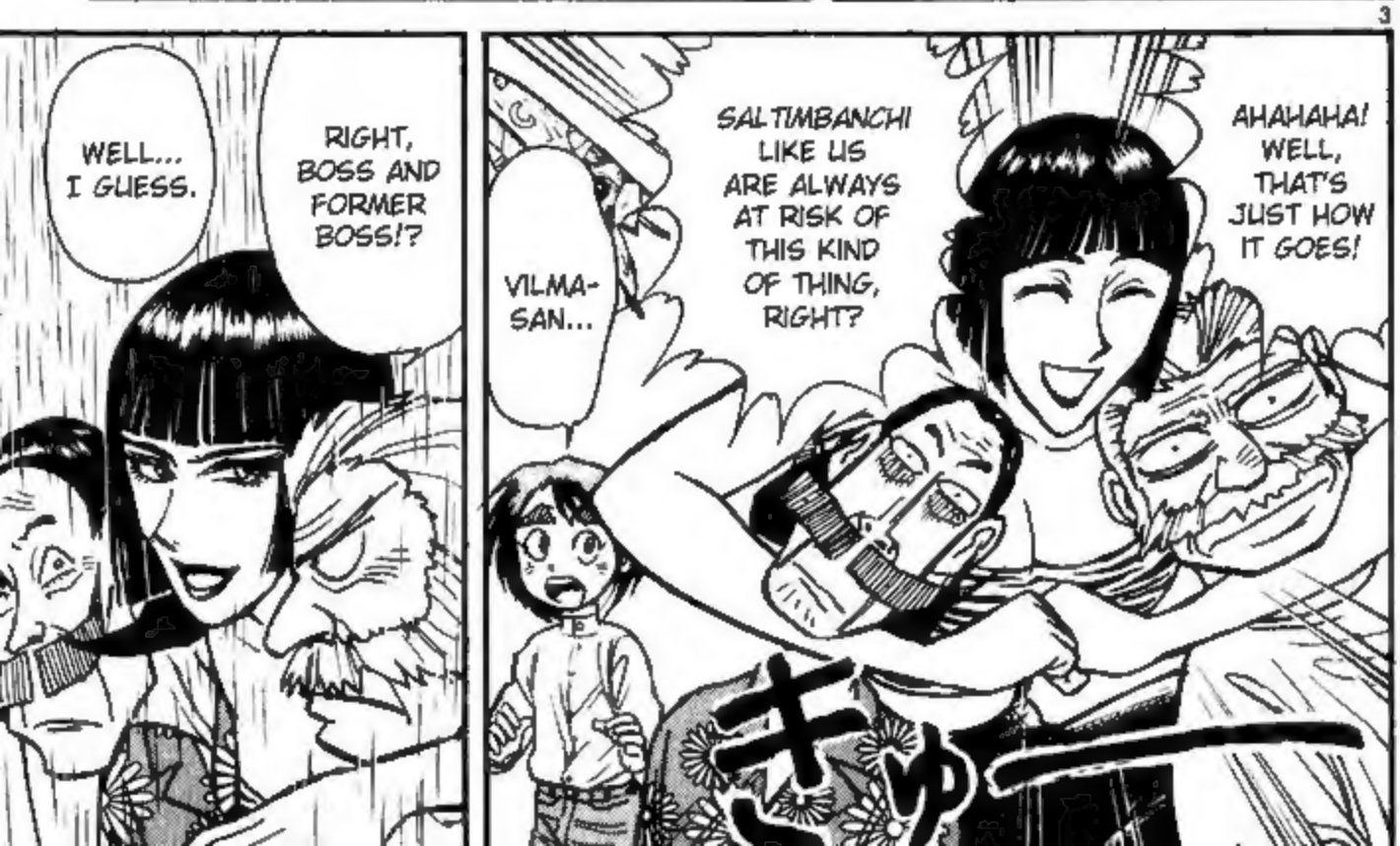
THE RADIO SAID THIS RAIN IS GOING TO CONTINUE INTO NEXT WEEK WITHOUT STOPPING.
WITHOUT A TENT... WE'RE IN TROUBLE ...
MM ...


I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NAKA-MACHI CIRCUS PUTTING ON A REAL PER-FORMANCE ...
I WAS LOOKING FOR-WARD TO IT ...

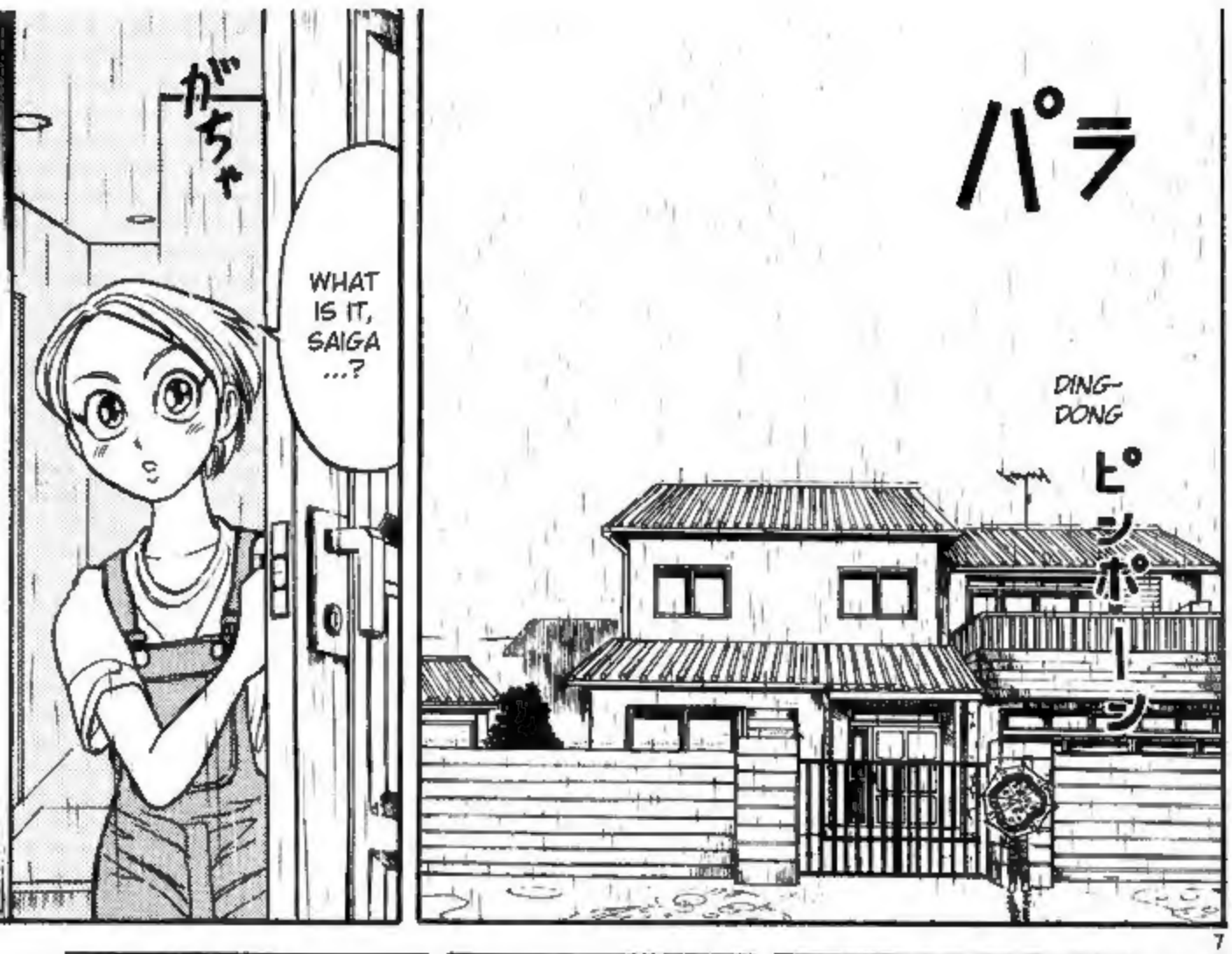

WELL... I GUESS.
RIGHT, BOSS AND FORMER BOSS!?
VILMA-SAN...
SALTIMBANCHI LIKE US ARE ALWAYS AT RISK OF THIS KIND OF THING, RIGHT?
AHAHAHA! WELL, THAT'S JUST HOW IT GOES!
ぎゅ

TCH, THERE'S NO HELPING IT.
BUT, VILMA-SAN...
GETTING ALL DEPRESSED ISN'T MUCH USE. WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE RAIN STOPS.
YES ...
LET US BE OFF.
GUYS ...
LET'S GO HOME.
IT'S AS VILMA SAYS.

PIPE DOWN! LET'S HURRY UP AND GO HOME !!
NAKA-MACHI-SAN!
I THOUGHT WE COULD DO THIS IF WE REALLY TRIED...
THERE... THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN THINK OF!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST, MASARU?

IF YOU STOP AT EACH ONE, YOU WILL NEVER ARRIVE ANYWHERE.
TO LIVE IN THE CIRCUS IS TO JOURNEY THROUGH MANY DIFFERENT CHALLENGES.
SHIROGANE, AREN'T YOU DISAPPOINTED? EVERYONE WAS SO ENTHUSIASTIC... YOU WERE, TOO...
COME ALONG, YOUNG MASTER.
LIESE-SAN, TOO...
MASARU-SAN, THIS WILL NOT BE THE END OF THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS.
SHIRO-GANE ...
ガアア
mm, mm
No room

BECAUSE THE NAKAMACHI CIRCUS IS FUN.
WELL, I'M NOT GIVING UP!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE EVERYONE WOULD GIVE UP SO EASILY!
IT HAS TO BE...
EVEN I WENT THROUGH IMPRESSIVE TRAINING.
SO...I THINK I CAN BE USEFUL TO EVERYONE, JUST A LITTLE BIT...
BUYING IT WON'T WORK. WE OPEN NEXT WEEK, AND IT MIGHT NOT GET HERE IN TIME.
WE HAVE MONEY, BUT...
A TENT!
AS LONG AS WE HAVE A TENT, WE CAN MANAGE EVEN IF THERE'S A LOT OF RAIN.
HOW CAN I...
IN THAT CASE ...


パラ
ガチャ
WHAT IS IT, SAIGA ...?
DING-DONG
ピンポーン
7

GRAND-PA!
HUH? "TOO"?

WHAT, YOU TOO?

SOMEONE'S COME TO ASK YOU A FAVOR AGAIN.

UH... UM...
I... HAVE A FAVOR... TO ASK OF YOUR GRAND-FATHER.
IF I CAN.

EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU SEEMS TO THINK I WAS PUT ON THIS EARTH TO DO YOU FAVORS! AS IF I'M OBLIGATED TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU!!
GRANDPA, IT'S JUST MY CLASSMATE THIS TIME!
YOU'RE HERE AGAIN!?
"COULD YOU SOMEHOW GET US A TENT," IS IT!?
UM...
WHAT'S THIS, IT'S THE BOY WHO CAME HERE WITH SHIRO-GANE.
8
THAT'S RIGHT.
EVERY-ONE... CAME HERE...?
HOW DID YOU...?
HUH ...?
HONESTLY! ALL THE OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR TROUPE HAVE BEEN HERE BABBLING ON ABOUT TENTS SINCE THE CRACK OF DAWN!

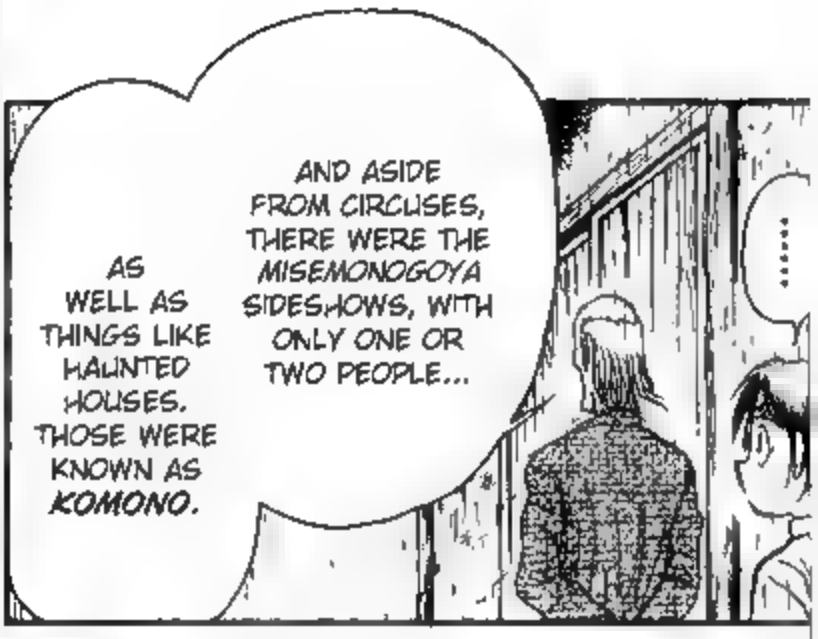
I REFUSE.
OH, DON'T SAY THAT!
IF IT GOES WELL, WE'LL THROW IN A LOVELY LADY AS PART OF THE RENTAL FEE!
PLEASE HELP US!
IF YOU PLEASE, OLD MAN ...
WON'T YOU GIVE US ONE OF YOUR SMALLER TENTS?
Y'OLD MISER!
AND WHY NOT!? MISER!
I SAID I REFUSE!
Tent
Tent
IF YOU... L-L-LEND US A TENT ...
UM... THAT IS... YOU KNOW...
Tent

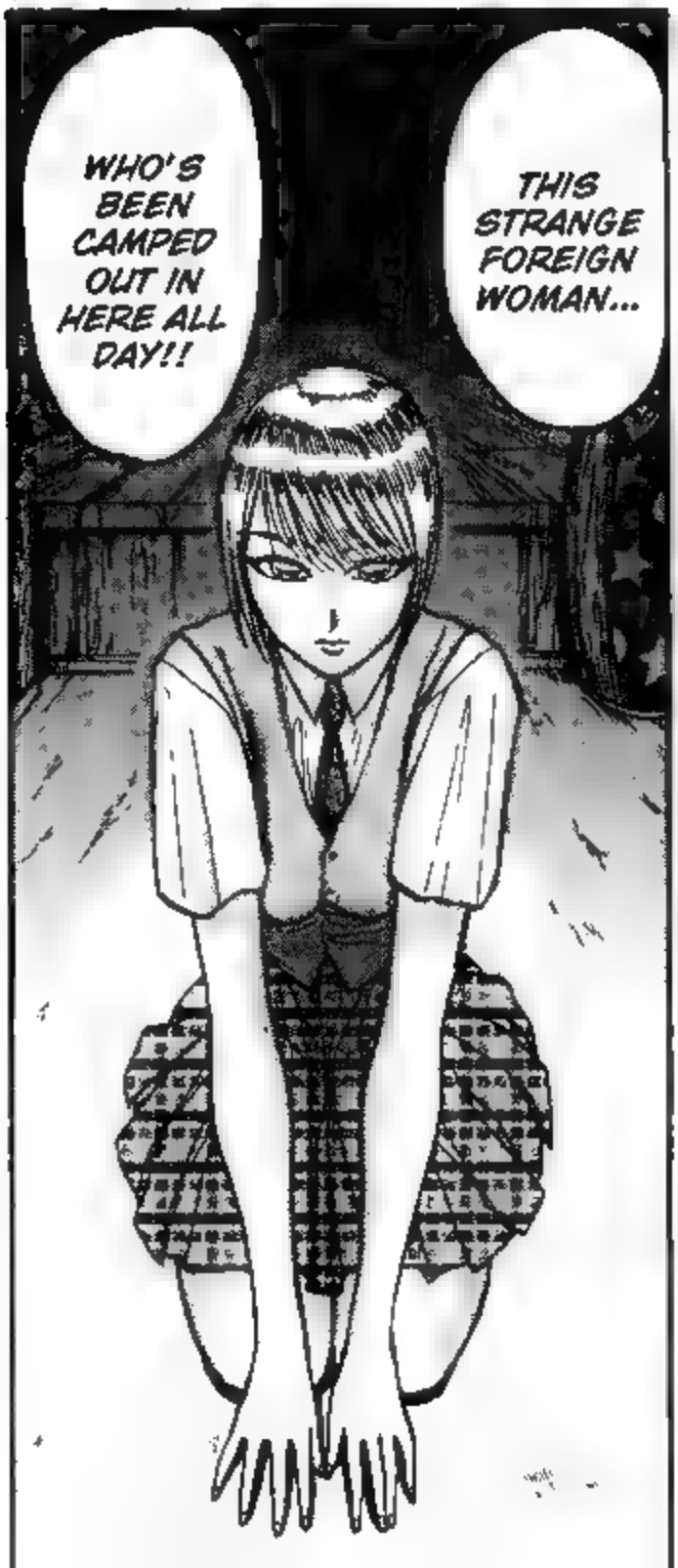
Um.. Um.. I.. can teach your pet whatever tricks you'd like.. whether it's a dog or a cat.. So.. Um.um..
HEY, OLD-TIMER.
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE ANY LONGER, FIND A WAY TO GET US A TENT.
サアアア
.....
.....

ハアアア
IT DIDN'T DO ANY GOOD, HUH...
BUT ...
アアア
THAT'S ...
THEY DIDN'T GIVE UP AFTER ALL!
EVERY-ONE...

I... REALLY WANTED TO SEE ... THE NAKA-MACHI CIRCUS PUT ON A REAL PERFORMANCE ...
YOU WANT TO SEE THEIR CIRCUS? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
WHAT IS IT, RYOUKO?
YOU KNOW, GRANDPA ...
.....
SMALL CIRCUSES WITH 20-30 MEMBERS WERE CALLED CHUUNI...THERE WERE A LOT OF THOSE IN THE OLD DAYS.
MORE THAN 100 TROUPE MEMBERS, WITH LUGGAGE EXCEEDING 11 TONS AND 30 TRUCKS...A LARGE FAMILY LIKE THAT WAS CALLED OONI.
UM ...
HUH?
YOUNG MAN...ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A CERTAIN WAY TO REFER TO BIG AND SMALL CIRCUSES.

AND ...
A SMALL TENT THAT FITS LESS THAN 100 PEOPLE... THAT'S WHAT I HAVE.


AS WELL AS THINGS LIKE HAUNTED HOUSES. THOSE WERE KNOWN AS *KOMONO*.
AND ASIDE FROM CIRCUSES, THERE WERE THE *MISEMONOGOYA* SIDESHOWS, WITH ONLY ONE OR TWO PEOPLE...
.....


WHO'S BEEN CAMPED OUT IN HERE ALL DAY!!
THIS STRANGE FOREIGN WOMAN...

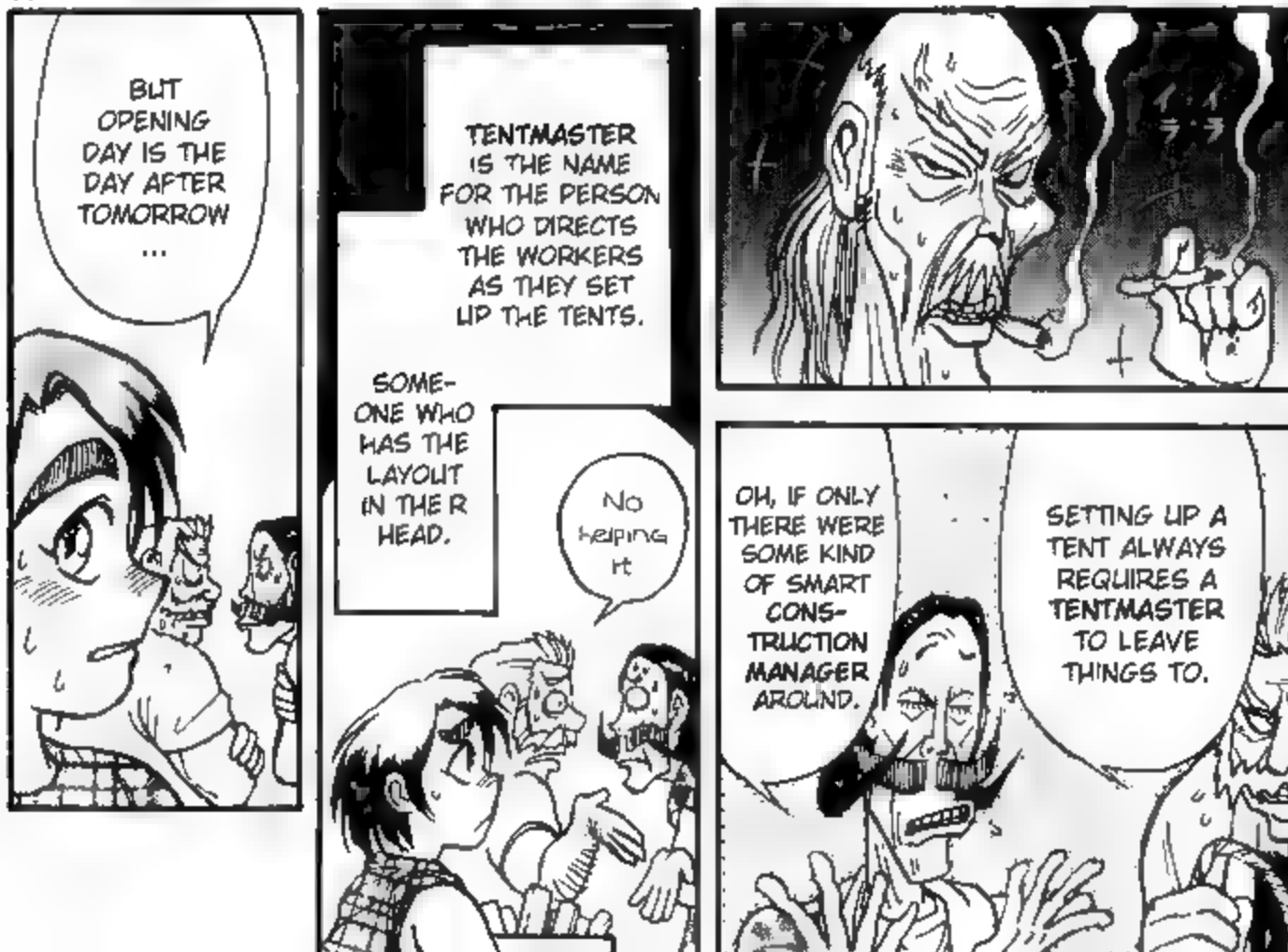
YOU MEAN, YOU'LL ...
THEN ...

TCH, THERE'S NO HELPING IT IF THESE FOOLS ARE GOING TO BE COMING EVERY DAY.
GRAND-PA...!

ES-PECIALLY ...
ガリ

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY... BUT IF IT'S AT ALL POSSIBLE ...
IT SEEMS SHE WON'T MOVE UNTIL I GIVE YOU A TENT.
SHE'S BEEN HERE SINCE LAST NIGHT! IT'S AWFUL!
SHI-RO-GANE ...
SHI ...
HOW-EVER! YOU'LL GET NO MORE HELP FROM ME!!
YEAH, YEAH... YOU'VE GIVEN ME A HARD TIME, YOU UN-PLEASANT WOMAN ...
TCH ...
I GET IT, I GET IT.
AFTER THAT, WE GOT TO WORK SETTING UP THE TENT.

A BIG TENT WOULD NORMALLY TAKE ABOUT TEN DAYS TO SET UP...
BUT THIS WAS A SMALLER TENT THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE ONLY THREE DAYS.
SHUT UP! I DON'T REMEMBER!
HEY, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M DOING WITH THIS!
OLD MAN, WHAT DO I DO OVER HERE?


BUT OPENING DAY IS THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW ...
TENTMASTER IS THE NAME FOR THE PERSON WHO DIRECTS THE WORKERS AS THEY SET UP THE TENTS.
SOMEONE WHO HAS THE LAYOUT IN THE R HEAD.
No helping it
OH, IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME KIND OF SMART CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AROUND.
SETTING UP A TENT ALWAYS REQUIRES A TENTMASTER TO LEAVE THINGS TO.

ISN'T ANY KIND FINE?
IS THIS WIRE THE KIND WE NEED?
HMPH.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING OVER HERE FOR?
RIGHT.
LIESE, GO BUY SOME 12-GAUGE ANNEALED WIRE.
THE 12-GAUGE ANNEALED WIRE IS A RIGID FELLOW... IT WON'T BREAK ON YOU.
ahem
HUH?
12-GAUGE ANNEALED WIRE.
ahem
ゴホン
AH!
WE NEED MORE LOGS, THEN!
A-HEM, DON'T USE JUST ONE VERTICAL SHAFT, YOU IDIOTS. IT WON'T GIVE YOU ENOUGH REINFORCE-MENT.
ゴホン
AH!
AH!
MORONS, IF YOU PUT THE SIDE COLUMN THERE IT'LL BE USELESS!

INDEED... THAT'S A CON-STRUCTION MANAGER FOR YOU.
YOU REALLY DO NEED A TENTMASTER, AFTER ALL.
NORI, CLIMB THE GASSHOU AND IN-CREASE ITS TEN-SION!
GIRLIE, COMMIT THESE KNOTS TO MEMORY!
START ATTACHING THE ANNEALED WIRE, SONNY! LONG AND SHORT, ALL DIFFERENT SIZES.

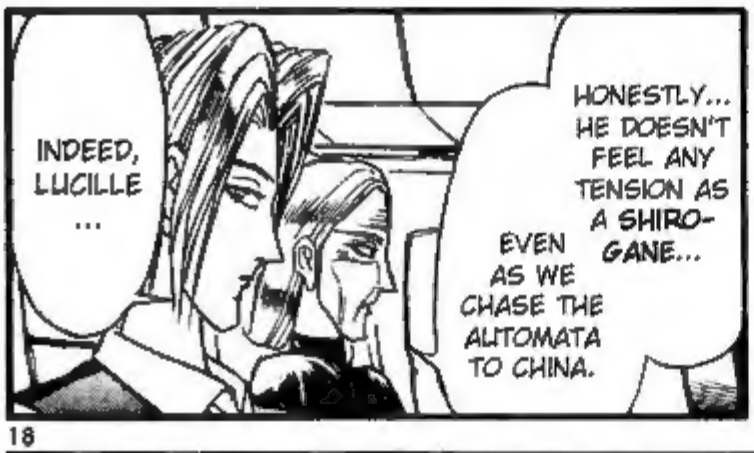
IS TO BE BACK IN THE CIRCUS!

GRAND-PAAA!

WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, GRAND-PA...
WHAT IS IT, RYOUKO !?

IMBE-CILES, THAT GOES OVER THIS WAY!
GRAMPS, IS THIS OKAY HERE?
♪.
.....
HMPH.
AHAHAHAHA
HA HA HA!
YOU CAN'T HOLD OUT, GRANDPA.
U-FU-FU ...
WE DID IT!
NAKAMACHI CIRCUS, OPENING DAY

RBA
RBA
THE SAME DAY
OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN


INDEED, LUCILLE ...
HONESTLY... HE DOESN'T FEEL ANY TENSION AS A SHIROGANE...
EVEN AS WE CHASE THE ALTOMATA TO CHINA.

NARUMI'S ASLEEP ?

EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE QUITE A BIG JOB THIS TIME.

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

pg 3: *Saltimbanchi*—Italian word for wandering acrobats

pp 11-12: *Ooni*, *chuuni*, and *komono* are terms specific to Japanese circus history, so they have no real English equivalents. They are written with kanji roughly meaning "big load", "medium load", and "small thing" respectively.

pg. 12: *Misemono(-goya)* were exhibitions something like Western sideshows that flourished during the Edo period. Haunted houses are still popular attractions in Japan.

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.